

Message Text

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E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 22

THE FOLLOWING EXCERPT FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PRESS
CONFERENCE TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS
BEING TRANSMITTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Q: YOU MENTIONED YOUR DESIRE TO OPEN A NEW DIALOGUE WITH
THE COUNTRIES IN SOUTH AMERICA, AND THERE'S BEEN SOME TALK
ABOUT A TRIP PERHAPS TO PANAMA AND YOUR TRIP TO MEXICO CITY
AT THE END OF THE MONTH AND PERHAPS A LARGER TRIP TO THE
CONTINENT IN APRIL. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU IF YOU COULD
BE MORE SPECIFIC AT THIS TIME ABOUT YOUR PLANS AND WHETHER
YOU HAVE RULED OUT A MEETING IN MEXICO WITH AN EMISSARY OF
THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I HAVE INDICATED AT A PREVIOUS PRESS
CONFERENCE THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN AGREEMENT AD REFERENDUM,
WHICH MEANS, FOR CURRENT EXAMINATION BY THE UNITED STATES
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AND PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE BASIC PRINCIPLES ON

WHICH A NEGOTIATION LEADING TO A NEW TREATY FOR THE PANAMA CANAL SHOULD BE BASED.

THESE PRINCIPLES ARE NOW BEING STUDIED IN OUR GOVERNMENT AND WHEN THEY ARE APPROVED, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT I MAY TAKE A TRIP TO PANAMA TO MARK THE AGREEMENT ON THESE PRINCIPLES.

THE MEETING IN MEXICO CITY GREW OUT OF A SPEECH I MADE TO THE LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS DURING THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN WHICH I POINTED OUT THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS EAGER TO START A NEW DIALOGUE WITH LATIN AMERICA ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND GEARED TO THE REALITIES OF THE CURRENT SITUATION. AT THIS LUNCH THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF COLOMBIA RESPONDED TO MY SPEECH AND INVITED THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ALL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO A MEETING IN BOGOTA TO FORMULATE A PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO THIS AMERICAN INITIATIVE.

THAT MEETING TOOK PLACE IN NOVEMBER AND CAME UP WITH WHAT WE CONSIDER A VERY CONSTRUCTIVE DOCUMENT THAT OUTLINED AN AGENDA FOR A PROPOSED MEETING BETWEEN THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE AND THE UNITED STATES. THIS MEETING IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR THE PERIOD OF FEBRUARY 21 TO THE 23 IN MEXICO CITY. THE LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL MEET SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THEN TO FORMULATE THEIR IDEAS EVEN MORE PRECISELY THAN WAS POSSIBLE IN BOGOTA. I HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH VARIOUS FOREIGN MINISTERS THAT ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THIS IN LATIN AMERICA AND I'M QUITE OPTIMISTIC THAT WE CAN TAKE A SIGNIFICANT STEP IN MEXICO CITY. WE ARE HARD AT WORK IN PREPARING AN AMERICAN POSITION IN RESPONSE TO THIS LATIN AMERICAN INITIATIVE.

WITH RESPECT TO A POSSIBLE MEETING WITH A CUBAN REPRESENTATIVE, THERE IS NO SUCH PLAN. KISSINGER

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